

T^NR



VOLUME 2021 - ISSUE 3

FIRST RESPONDER - I'M GOING TO HELP - A SPLIT-SECOND CHANCE



THIS PAGE MOBILE DIVING SALVAGE UNIT 2 DIVE TRAINING PANAMA CITY, Fla. — Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Arthurgwain L. Marquez, assigned to Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command, conducts a deep-sea requalification dive in preparation for Mobile Diving Salvage Unit (MDSU) 2's deployment. Marquez is one of the contributing staff members for TNR Magazine, manages the official Navy Reserve social media platforms and is a webmaster for the Navy Reserve official website. (U.S. Navy photo by Navy Diver 2nd Class Jared Leestma)

COVER LARGE SCALE EXERCISE 2021 ATLANTIC OCEAN — Seaman John Carlo Turla maintains a lookout watch aboard the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3), Aug. 12, 2021. LSE 2021 merges live and synthetic training capabilities to create an intense, robust training environment. It connects high-fidelity training and real-world operations to build knowledge and skills needed in today's complex, multi-domain, and contested environment. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jesse Schwab)

TNR

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Commander, Navy Reserve Force

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Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command

Rear Adm. Scott D. Jones
Commander, Naval Air Force Reserve
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Deputy Commander, Naval Information Forces

TNR STAFF

Lt. Cmdr. Amber Lewis
Force Public Affairs Officer, Editor in Chief

Lt. Bryce Baswell
Deputy Force Public Affairs Officer, Senior Editor

Chief Mass Communication Specialist Scott Wichmann
Managing Editor, Art Director

Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Craig Z. Rodarte
Associate Editor

Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Arthurgwain Marquez
Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Raymond Maddocks
Contributing Staff

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1915 Forrestal Drive, Norfolk, VA 23551-4615
(757) 445-8500

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TNR tells the story of the U.S. Navy Reserve through articles, news and photos showcasing the contributions of Navy Reserve Sailors delivering real-world capabilities and expertise in support of the Navy mission. Find more news and information at www.navyreserve.navy.mil

FEATURES



16 CHAMPLAIN TOWERS FIRST RESPONDER

Lt. Cmdr. Zev Neuwirth personally treated over 30 first responders suffering from injuries and dehydration. He remained on scene for almost three weeks, continuously providing medical treatment for patients and displaced survivors at the reunification center.



20 Y'ALL PRAY, I'M GOING TO HELP

It was nearly 10 a.m. as they crossed the state line from Georgia into Alabama, about 30 miles southwest of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Suddenly, a minivan swerved into the left lane, flipped and rolled across both lanes into a ditch.



22 CUTLASS EXPRESS

More than 90% of those planning and executing the exercise are SELRES: from the exercise director, to the lead planner, to the country officers-in-charge, to the Maritime Operations Centers (MOC) mentors, to the linguists, medics, and assessors.



28 A SPLIT-SECOND CHANCE

With her pistol still aimed directly at the man, Sullivan took a deep breath, and — in the heat of the day and wearing a 40-pound armored vest — made a fateful choice.

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FROM THE TOP

VIGILANCE & PREPAREDNESS



" Our next conflict will not look like that of the past twenty years, and yet the nation is counting on us to be warfighting ready, to contribute to a more capable and lethal Navy, and to fight and win if called upon. I know we will be ready. "

We recently paused to reflect on the 20th anniversary of September 11, 2001, the deadliest terrorist attack in history, and an assault perpetrated against our country, innocent civilians, first responders, and our way of life. The cowardly acts of that day catapulted our nation and our allies into a protracted, global war on terrorism. And when America needed us, our Navy Reserve answered the call, as it has in every major conflict since our founding one hundred and six years ago.

Also in recent weeks, we witnessed the conclusion of our nation's mission in Afghanistan. The value of our contribution to this important effort is profound, and I am humbled by, and proud of, every one of you who left your family and civilian career to fight the Global War on Terror when the nation needed you. You made a difference.

While the Afghanistan withdrawal ends one very important chapter in our history, it also marks a new beginning. We are now redirecting the formidable and time-proven fighting spirit of the Navy Reserve to address the new challenges posed by shifting global dynamics and

an era of long-term strategic competition. On this new course, we must be thoughtful regarding our contribution. We must be vigilant, and we must remain prepared. Our next conflict will not look like that of the past twenty years, and yet the nation is counting on us to be warfighting ready, to contribute to a more capable and lethal Navy, and to fight and win if called upon. I know we will be ready.

To that end, we have moved out quickly on three primary lines of effort – Design the Force, Train the Force, and Mobilize the Force – since the Navy Reserve Fighting Instructions (NRFI) were issued one year ago. We are orienting the force to the future fight. We are focused on training for our warfighting roles and are quickly developing the means to assess our readiness in real-time. And we have tested Distributed Activation in practice and in multiple exercises, demonstrating our increasing ability to rapidly mobilize the force at scale and at pace.

And yet we have much more to do. I expect you to familiarize yourself with the NRFI action plan, and how it relates to the requirements defining your mobilization

billet. Every day you are in uniform, you must be training to generate the readiness required of your mobilization billet on day one, if or when required. And stay engaged. In the coming year, we will modernize the Navy Reserve's capabilities and capacity with even more urgency, and I am counting on each of you to make this happen.

Finally, I want to thank Force Master Chief Chris Kotz, the enlisted leader of our more than 100,000 Reserve Sailors over the last four years, for his guidance and wise counsel to my predecessor, Vice Adm. Luke McCollum, and to me. Force Kotz retires in mid-October following 30 years of outstanding Naval Service.

A passionate Sailors' advocate, his vision and leadership while our 16th Force Master Chief will have a lasting positive impact for decades. His personal involvement in resolving Sailors' issues - a true hallmark of his leadership - often resulted in countless hours untangling seemingly intractable problems. Yet he consistently found ways to transform 'lessons-learned' into meaningful programs and policies for the benefit of the entire force. In

doing so, he promoted warfighting readiness, improved the lethality of the Navy Reserve, and positioned us to tackle tomorrow's challenges. I'm honored to call him my shipmate and friend.

Force, your trusted counsel and insightful leadership will be missed, and Kim and I wish you and your family fair winds and following seas in retirement.

Master Chief Tracy Hunt relieves Force Kotz as the 17th Force Master Chief of the Navy Reserve, joining our team at an inflection point in our Reserve force's transformation. Force Hunt, most recently Command Master Chief, Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command, was selected from an impressive group of highly qualified candidates. He is an invaluable addition to the team, and will be critical to our efforts as we prepare for the future. Welcome aboard, Force Hunt. [See "Hail and Farewell" articles on page 4 & 5.]

Shipmates, you're doing great work in every theater around the globe, but our work is just beginning. Now, let's get busy.

"In the coming year, we will modernize the Navy Reserve's capabilities and capacity with even more urgency ..."



Vice Adm. John B. Mustin
Chief of Navy Reserve
Commander, Navy Reserve Force

HAIL AND FAREWELL



Relieve the Watch!

There is much significance of “The Watch” in my Navy journey to my family and me. Those who heard me speak early in my tenure as Force were a cornerstone of my talking points. Like the phrase “every Marine is a rifleman,” every Sailor is charged with standing the watch, ready to act when needed, competent in skill and ability to take charge and solve problems that require a bias for action and the delivery of results. Although this October, I will turn over the watch to Force Master Chief Tracy Hunt, this will be my last TNR forward, so I have decided to dedicate this opportunity to a few pearls of wisdom of my watch as our Navy Reserve 16th Force Master Chief.

First and foremost, I have many to be thankful to for the successes of my Naval career. Below is a distillation of what all of my support systems have provided; while not the entire list, it is the top three of the elements of my success as the Navy Reserve Force Master Chief:

Mentorship – The singular most significant contribution to my ability to navigate through the ups and downs has been the strong mentors in my career. I have taken the mentorship-protégé relationship very seriously, and I have utilized my mentors very often. If you are a mentor, thank you for what you do! Being a mentor is a sacrifice and a willingness to provide time and effort to bring the best out of your protégé. If you are a protégé, thank your mentors for the insights and development they provide you. Use your mentorship relationship wisely, and the rewards for both in the relationship will be exponential.

Support – It should be evident that we all need help, in our teams, in our family and friends, and within a mission. Supporting each other is the connection of life that accelerates our professional and personal journeys. It is also key to resiliency and developing deep relationship bonds. Supporting another through tough times can be the difference between a good or poor decision or compounding a situation. Therefore, I urge our Navy/Navy Reserve Team to support each other and our families often.

Follow-ship – Without equivocation, I can say that I took much from my leaders during my journey. I observed

my leaders, noting their attributes, decision-making style, ability to deal with a crisis, and communication. In my observations, a few essential qualities stand out that I have worked hard to emulate. First, I have worked to be a good follower to the leader, trusting and understanding that they are under just as much pressure to deliver results. Second, every leader is also a follower, which is vital for me to develop instincts on how to position my team to provide what is

needed before asked.

Having the pleasure of serving for two Chiefs of Navy Reserve, VADM Luke McCollum, and VADM John Mustin, I have been front row to a master class in strategy and execution. Both CNRs have been brilliant in laying the groundwork and moving out to transform our Navy Reserve from the Global War on Terror to Great Power Competition. As a result, I have been invited and included to represent our enlisted Sailors at crucial decision points of strategic development. For that inclusion and trust, I am very thankful. The Office of Chief of Navy Reserve (OCNR), CNR’s direct staff, has been an amazing and inclusive team of professionals. Additionally, the excellent Sailors at Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command (CNRFC) are dedicated and loyal to navigating the myriad of challenges in Personnel and Pay to support our Navy Reserve Force. During my tenure, the team at CNRFC has been responsive, dedicated, and sometimes led into areas that are not their swim lane to address, advocating for our Navy Reserve Sailors, and I am very proud of them.

My wife Kristen and I are very proud to have represented our Navy Reserve Force, and we will miss the opportunities afforded. However, we will both find ways to continue in our new home in Chattanooga, Tennessee, perhaps with our future generation of Sea Cadets and NJROTC. Force Master Chief Hunt is an absolute guardian of Sailors and an extraordinary leader I have enjoyed working alongside. I am very proud to have served with him over the past two years during his tour at CNRFC. He is a phenomenal motivator, a great leader – Force Master Chief Hunt, You Have the Watch, I stand relieved!

It’s a fine Navy day! Proud to be here, proud to serve!

I am overwhelmed with gratitude and honored to be your Force Master Chief. I would like to thank Admiral Mustin for giving me this opportunity to earn your trust. Thank you, Sir. To Force Kotz, you are a Sailor’s Sailor; your legacy of leadership will last for many years to come. I wish you and your family “Fair Winds and Following Seas.”

I recall the days when I was a young deck seaman, when I once asked my senior chief, “Why do I have to go on watch when it’s not my turn?”

Senior Chief Armenda’s answer was, “Someone has to stand the watch.”

He reminded me I was trained, qualified and had his confidence that I would stand the watch properly.

So now, thirty years later, my reply is the same: someone has to stand the watch.

It will be difficult at times, but I will stand this watch, and I accept this challenge.

During my career, I’ve focused my leadership efforts on developing the total team. I understand that the Sailors, Wardroom, civilians and families are the keys to success. It is simple: team readiness equals mission readiness. I challenge and ask the Navy Reserve leadership to never forget or lose focus on our number one asset — our Sailors and their families.

I challenge and ask the Chiefs Mess to live by our creed, to inspire, to motivate, to lead, build trust up and down the chain of command; to take care of — and



challenge — our Sailors.

I challenge and ask my petty officers and junior Sailors to live by the Sailor’s Creed, be accountable, be ready, learn and know your jobs.

The Reserve Force is transforming and we must position ourselves to answer when we’re called to fight. Embrace change. Embrace the Navy Reserve Fighting Instructions and focus on our number one priority: Warfighting Readiness.

For us to move forward as a Force, we must improve in other areas, also. We must embrace the Culture of Excellence and Warrior Toughness initiatives. We must reduce destructive behaviors, and we must always treat each other with dignity and respect.

This cannot be a “check in the block.” This is not going to happen overnight, but, using some of my boatswain’s mate terms, we have to “lay back and hold the line,” “take a round turn” and we have to “turn two” to improve our Force.

Like many Sailors, I went through and still go through some tough times. I needed something to constantly remind me I can make it. “KPF” stands for “keep pushing forward.” It’s my motto — a battle cry I started saying when I was a young petty officer.

I am going to do my very best. I will never quit... and I will make a positive impact in preparing our Sailors and Force to win the fight today and tomorrow.

I challenge you all to do the same.

It is time to KPF and turn two, Shipmates!



Chris Kotz

Master Chief Petty Officer Chris Kotz
Navy Reserve 16th Force Master Chief



Tracy Hunt

Master Chief Petty Officer Tracy Hunt
Navy Reserve 17th Force Master Chief

NAVY SETS TIMELINE AND DISCHARGE DETAILS FOR THOSE REFUSING THE COVID-19 VACCINE

The Navy's mandate began at the end of August after the release of the Secretary of Defense memo instructing military departments to enact the new vaccination requirement for DoD uniformed personnel who are not medically or administratively exempt. With the release of ALNAV 062/21 and NAVADMIN 190/21, all service members were given 90 days to comply.

Now, NAVADMIN 225/21, released Oct. 13, sets a deadline for all active-duty Sailors to be fully vaccinated by Nov. 28, while those in the selected reserve have until Dec. 28. The message also outlines the consequences for failing to comply.

This deadline makes Nov. 14 and Dec. 14 the final days active and selected reserve, respectively, can receive the second of the two required shots for a two-dose vaccine or the single dose of a one-dose vaccine, and complete the 14-day waiting period required to achieve full vaccination.

Sailors must be prepared to execute their mission at all times, in places throughout the world, including where vaccination rates are low and disease transmission is high. Immunizations are of paramount importance to protecting the health of the force and the warfighting readiness of the Fleet.

"To date, over 98 percent of active-duty U.S. Navy service members have met our readiness responsibility by completing or initiating a COVID-19 vaccination series, ensuring the continued readiness of our worldwide deployable Navy" said Adm. William Lescher, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, in the message.

The Navy's policy goal is to achieve a fully vaccinated force against the persistent and lethal threat of COVID-19.

"Tragically, there have been 164 deaths within the Navy family due to COVID-19, far exceeding the combined total of all other health or mishap related injuries and deaths over the same time period," wrote Vice Adm. John B. Nowell, Jr., the Chief of Naval Personnel. Of those, he noted, 144 were not immunized. The vaccination status of the remaining 20 remains undetermined.

To oversee the administrative discharge process for those refusing the vaccine, the Navy established the COVID Consolidated Disposition Authority (CCDA). This, Lescher wrote, will "ensure a fair and consistent process" for separation determinations.

The Chief of Naval Personnel (CNP) is the CCDA for the administrative separation processing of Navy service members, with the Chief of Navy Reserve (CNR) providing support to the CCDA for cases involving Navy service members in the Selected Reserve. The Vice Chief of Naval Operations retains authority for non-judicial punishment and courts-martial.

Administrative actions may begin as soon as a Navy service member meets the definition of "refusing the vaccine", which is a Navy service member who received a lawful order to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, is not or will not be fully vaccinated on the date required by the order, and does not have a pending or approved exemption request.

Effective immediately upon the release of the message, commands shall not allow Sailors refusing the vaccine to promote or advance, reenlist, or execute orders, with

the exception of separation orders, until the CCDA has completed disposition of their case. Transfer orders may be cancelled by Navy Personnel Command.

For officers and enlisted serving in Navy leadership roles refusing the vaccine, they will be notified immediately in writing that they have five days to either begin a vaccination series or request an exemption before being relieved and have detachment for cause initiated.

Senior leaders are members of command triads and those key staff positions, including any flag officer or flag officer select, regardless of their current billet. A complete list of these positions is found in the message.

With COVID-19 vaccination now mandatory, commanders, commanding officers, or officers in charge, with the concurrence of the first flag officer in the chain of command, are authorized to temporarily reassign Navy service members who refuse the COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of exemption status, based on operational readiness or mission requirements.

Commanding officers must identify those refusing the vaccine and verify that the Sailors have an initial counseling NAVPERS 1070/13, or "Page 13". Within thirty days of a Navy service member refusing the vaccine, reporting seniors must submit a special evaluation or fitness report. In addition to documenting failure to comply with individual medical readiness responsibilities, the report shall document other facts as appropriate, including any misconduct related to UCMJ Art. 92.

Commands are required to report Sailors refusing the vaccine to Commander, Navy Personnel Command. Rules differ depending on whether the member is an E-6 and above or officer, or an E-5 and below. Information on reporting procedures for each, along with points of contact, are available in the NAVADMIN.

For Navy service members refusing the vaccine, the CCDA also retains the authority for administrative processes regarding removal of warfare qualifications, additional qualification designations (AQD), Navy Enlisted Classifications (NEC), or sub-specialties, except in cases where removal authority is otherwise authorized by law or Executive Order. The CCDA may also seek recoupment of applicable bonuses, special and incentive pays, and the cost of training and education for service members refusing the vaccine.

Those separated only for vaccine refusal will receive no lower than a general discharge under honorable conditions. This type of discharge could result in the loss of some veterans' benefits.

Navy service members who started terminal leave on or before the applicable deadlines are administratively exempted from vaccine requirements.

Sailors seeking an exemption to the vaccine mandate can apply for medical reasons or a religious accommodation. Details on how to apply for each are available in NAVADMIN 190/21.

Complete information on the administrative ramifications of vaccine refusal can be found in NAVADMIN 225/21. Information on the Navy's COVID-19 policy is in ALNAV 062/21 and NAVADMIN 190/21.



NAVY DEADLINES FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION

BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT:

The Navy's definition of fully vaccinated is **two weeks after the last dose** of a COVID-19 vaccine. This makes **Nov. 14 the final day active duty Sailors** can receive the second of the two required shots for a two-dose vaccine or the single dose of a one-dose vaccine and **Dec. 14 the final day Reserve Sailors** can receive the second of the two required shots for a two-dose vaccine, or the single dose of a one-dose vaccine.

PER NAVADMIN 225/21, ANY SAILOR WHO IS NOT FULLY VACCINATED BY THE SUSPENSE DATES (DEADLINES) AND DOES NOT HAVE AN APPROVED OR PENDING WAIVER WILL:

- BE PROCESSED FOR MANDATORY SEPARATION
- DETACH FOR CAUSE (COMMANDERS, COs, OICs, COS, CSO, SELs)
- BE INELIGIBLE FOR ADVANCEMENT/PROMOTION/RE-ENLISTMENT/ORDERS EXECUTION
- BE INELIGIBLE FOR SEPARATION PAY
- FACE RECOUPMENT OF UNEARNED INCENTIVE PAYS
- RECEIVE SPECIAL FITNESS REPORT/EVAL DOCUMENTING FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH MEDICAL READINESS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, REFER TO
NAVADMIN 225/21 AT
mynavyhr.navy.mil

AROUND THE FORCE

A SNAPSHOT OF NEWS AND EVENTS FROM THE NAVY RESERVE FORCE DELIVERING STRATEGIC DEPTH AND OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY AROUND THE WORLD. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE STORIES AND MORE, VISIT WWW.NAVYRESERVE.NAVY.MIL.

CNR RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING CIVILIAN EMPLOYERS AT NERE 2021

Chief of Navy Reserve Vice Adm. John Mustin recognized select civilian employers from across the nation for their exceptional support of America's Navy Reserve Sailors, including their support of Reserve Sailor mobilization for COVID-19 pandemic national relief efforts, during a Navy Employer Recognition Event (NERE) August 20.

"This is our 10th Navy Employer Recognition Event, a program we began in 2010 as our way of thanking and recognizing employers who enthusiastically support their employees' service in the Navy Reserve," said Mustin. "I think you will enjoy the schedule of events that we've put together for you today. Our goal is for you to see first-hand a sampling of your employees' capabilities and the different types of service they contribute to our nation and our national defense."



PLAY BALL! GRANDFATHER PINS SCPO GRANDDAUGHTER AT TWINS GAME

U.S. Navy WWII Veteran Chief Petty Officer Bob Hanley conducted a pinning ceremony for his granddaughter, recently advanced Senior Chief Petty Officer Christine Hanley, a Reserve Sailor attached to NOSC Minneapolis.

SEABREEZE SUPPORT

BY CMDR. DAN CAHILL AND CNRFC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Navy Reserve Maritime Partnership Program Detachment 513 led logistics support for Exercise Sea Breeze 2021, a multi-national maritime exercise held in the Black Sea and Ukraine and co-hosted by U.S. 6th Fleet and the Ukrainian Navy. The event has occurred annually since 1997.

MPP Det 513 is an expeditionary reserve unit attached to Navy Operations Support Center (NOSC) Great Lakes, Ill., with capabilities designed to support specialized naval warfare training of allied and partner nations.

Information Systems Technician Second Class Sergio Ambelis Diaz, a Reserve Sailor assigned to MPP Det 513, was mobilized to participate in Sea Breeze 2021.

"When I joined the Navy Reserve, I never imagined I would have such an impact during my two weeks of annual training," said Diaz. "Our Ukrainian partners were so gracious and thankful for our support and the opportunity to train together; U.S. Sailors were all treated as close friends at each and every event."



Exercise Sea Breeze 2021 brought together troops, units and equipment from 32 countries across six continents, including 32 ships, 40 aircraft and 18 special units and dive teams, enhancing the interoperability of participating nations and strengthening maritime security within the region.

At the direction of U.S. 6th Fleet, MPP Det 513 led logistics support for the provisioning of more than 2.5 million liters of fuel and 30,000 meals, while also providing infrastructure and other sustainment for all 32 participating countries at 14 different locations throughout Ukraine. MPP Det 513 also integrated and trained with Ukrainian maritime forces.

Unit leaders credited the participation of highly trained and dedicated Navy Reserve Sailors with a wealth of professional expertise to the successful mission accomplishment.

"I never realized that the U.S. Navy worked with so many international partners," said Diaz. "Having the opportunity to meet and interact with over 30 countries was an experience I will never forget." ✌

MINEMEN AMONG US

BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS HANK GETTYS, NAVY RESERVE CHIEF OF INFORMATION

When most people think of Naval mine warfare, Greenville, S.C. does not immediately come to mind. However, nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains is an important part of the Navy's mine warfare mission.

Mobile Mine Assembly Unit (MOMAU) 7, a Reserve unit attached to Navy Munitions Command (NMC) Okinawa, is home to a group of Navy Reserve Minemen working to keep the oceans safe.

"Essentially, our job is to be ready — but a little more involved," said Mineman 1st Class Andrew Terry of Charlotte, N.C. "For example, if a foreign country were to block trade, the active side of our community would come in with minesweepers and start sweeping through trade lines and routes.

"The flip side to that is that we could be activated and sent overseas to upgrade assets to be deployed," added Terry. "Part of our job is to build the actual explosives and the mines, essentially putting the



components together, link it all up, verify it's good and ready to go to a plane."

According to Terry, dealing with mines is highly specialized, deeply involved, minutely technical and potentially dangerous. The work involves consistent training, requiring members of MOMAU to do a little more than what most people would think of a typical 'weekend warrior.'

"Depending on how much we are doing in a given year, we are activated anywhere from 60-75 days," said Terry, adding the unit's completion of mission requirements come from a combination of Inactive Duty Training Travel (IDTT) and Annual Training (AT) order types.

"It's a good bit," added Mineman 2nd Class Justin Williams, of Greenwood, S.C., when asked about the unit's engagement level. "I would say we probably go on IDTT orders three or four times a year, and then we do a 29-day [E]-AT."

For full story, scan QR code or visit www.navyreserve.navy.mil



SHARING THE CULTURE OF LANGUAGE

BY CHIEF MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST JUSTIN STUMBERG, U.S. NAVAL FORCES EUROPE-AFRICA, U.S. SIXTH FLEET PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Home to over one billion residents and more than 2,000 spoken languages, Africa contains some of the highest linguistic diversity in the world. This language mosaic stretches from the Afro-asiatic linguistic groups in North Africa; to the Horn; to the Niger-Congo languages in West, Central, and Southeast Africa; to the Indo-European language groups on the Southern tip of the continent. Exercise Cutlass Express 2021 (CE21) brought together many different countries representing numerous languages and cultures: Comoros, Djibouti, Georgia, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, United Kingdom, and the United States. This being the case, skilled translators like Navy Reserve Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Marcelin Aggossou were absolutely essential.

especially those who speak French,” said Aggossou. “I feel helpful, and it makes me happy to feel helpful.”

But translating for military exercises isn’t as easy as just converting a sentence in one language to a sentence in another said Aggossou. A lot of an interpreter’s value is in enhancing communication by building bridges between concepts for their target audiences.

One of the more challenging concepts discussed during CE21 was a maritime jurisdiction within the international rule of law class taught by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Law of Sea expert, Tiago Zanella. Zanella acknowledged the complexities of international law when considering the often confusing language of international agreements. That’s where translators like Aggossou really shine as they help communicate both understanding and meaning.

“Many of the Djiboutian Coast Guardsman I was working with understood what Zanella was talking about, but there were still questions about how it applied



“Being an interpreter is not only knowing the language but also knowing the technical terms,” Aggossou said. “It’s hard to take someone who doesn’t have the background or doesn’t have the right word.”

Originally from the West African nation of Benin, Aggossou was a perfect choice to support CE21. As a native French speaker, he was able to help U.S. and other English speaking-forces connect with troops from French-speaking countries such as Djibouti and Comoros.

“It’s easier being a native French speaker and very difficult to translate word by word if you learned the language second hand,” said Aggossou. “It’s a combination of knowing the subjects, having a good memory, and being fluent in the language.”

Goals of Cutlass Express included reinforcing maritime rule of law, counter-proliferation interdiction, and regional stabilization in East Africa. For Aggossou, understanding of the value of his contribution to these common goals provides him with the satisfaction that he is making a difference.

“I have satisfaction knowing I’m doing something that’s helping other partners to learn what’s going on,

directly to them,” said Aggossou. “I was able to help facilitate conversations between the instructor and class to help make sure people felt comfortable with the material.”

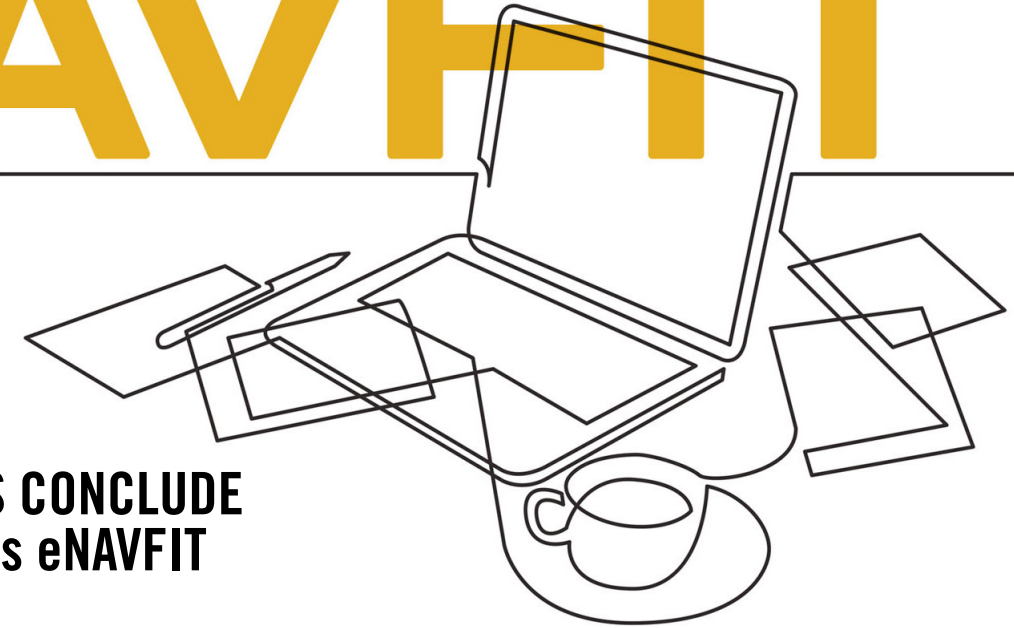
Aggossou described that playing a vital role in supporting exercise participants’ growth is one of the reasons why he was so happy to support CE21.

“It’s really important supporting African nations and training them, so together we can work as partners,” said Aggossou. “We can combat human trafficking, human smuggling, illegal drugs, and other criminal activities.”

CE 21 is one of three African regional “Express” series exercises sponsored by U.S. Africa Command and facilitated by U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa (NAVEUR-NAF), U.S. Sixth Fleet (C6F), undertaken to provide African forces and international partners with collaborative opportunities on comprehensive maritime security concerns.

NAVEUR-NAF-C6F, headquartered in Naples, Italy, conducts the full spectrum of joint and naval operations, often in concert with allied and interagency partners in order to advance U.S. national interests and security and stability in Europe and Africa. ✂

eNAVFIT



RESERVE SAILORS CONCLUDE TESTING OF NAVY's eNAVFIT PILOT PROGRAM

BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS LAWRENCE DAVIS, NAVY REGION SOUTHEAST RCC FORT WORTH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Selected Reserve (SELRES) Sailors assigned to various Navy Reserve units across the United States recently concluded testing efforts of a pilot program for eNavFit, the Navy’s new performance evaluation interface, scheduled to replace NAVFIT98A.

Reserve Component (RC) testing of the program, which began earlier this summer, aimed to examine the functionality and compatibility of the new web-based interface on various CAC-enabled computers both in and outside of traditional work environments.

“Their feedback is critical,” said Performance Evaluation Training Task Force Officer in Charge Cmdr. Kristie Colpo. “Having our Reserve Shipmates test and evaluate eNavFit significantly contributed to our development efforts.”

Navy Reserve units involved in the test pilot program included Navy Reserve Navy Recruiting District Detachment Houston (NR NRD Det. Houston), Navy Reserve Special Operations Command North (NR SOCNORTH), and U.S. Fleet Forces Maritime Air Operations Detachment-Fort Dix (US FFMAO Fort Dix).

With the help of the feedback from the Reserve pilot testing, eNavFit is expected to be available for the full Reserve Force following the official NAVADMIN announcement in the coming weeks.

“eNavFit 2.0 is a solid improvement over our existing system. If I can jump in and start using it, today’s Sailors will learn to use this system pretty quickly,” said Rear Adm. Alvin Holsey, commander, Navy Personnel Command (NPC). “This is the type of system that changes our Sailors’ lives and improves outcomes by streamlining the evaluation process.”

“The easy access of it is what stood out to me the most. It’s very user-friendly,” said Chief Yeoman Veronica Chavez, a Reserve Sailor attached to NR SOCNORTH who served as the testing program liaison between her

unit and NPC. “The new program addresses technical issues we were experiencing before, like accessing databases, importing and exporting. Everybody here liked it and is excited for its official release.”

In addition to eNavFit’s expansion of NAVFIT98A’s capabilities, the new web-based interface enables users to digitally sign, validate, and electronically submit performance evaluations and fitness reports to the Performance Evaluation Division (PERS-32) for entry into Sailors’ Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) records.

“It has great potential,” said Navy Reserve Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NR NTAG) Officer in Charge Cmdr. JoAnn Friesz, attached to NR NRD Det. Houston. “There were still a few minor glitches we discovered and communicated back to be resolved, but overall I like the fact that we’ll be able to work on FITREPs and EVALs without having to extract databases. Having the new eNAVFIT program on BOL [Bupers Online] makes life much easier.”

The eNavFit rollout is part of a series of Performance Evaluation Transformation and Talent Management (PET-TM) programs and initiatives designed to better train, develop, and retain top talent.

PET-TM is a suite of talent management enhancements that are designed for more frequent and meaningful Sailor development conversations, systematic mid-term counseling for recurring workplace performance feedback, and more efficient and effective Sailor performance evaluation tools and processes.

A revision to the BUPERSINST 1610.10 instruction that includes a greater refocus on mid-term counseling is scheduled for release alongside eNavFit, and a new development initiative called MyNavy Coaching, designed to create the conditions for Sailors to develop and grow, will follow in 2022.

The Active Duty pilot for eNavFit is scheduled to run through Fall 2021, and open for full active duty use in December of this year. ✂

PROFILES IN PROFESSIONALISM



“Making extra efforts to help Sailors start their new journeys ... to the [Navy] Reserve makes my job feel more meaningful.”

HULL TECHNICIAN 2ND CLASS

OLGA PERROZCARRERO

In November, 2019, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael M. Gilday released a NAVADMIN calling for a culture of excellence, focusing existing Navy core values to transform behaviors, norms and culture.

Promoting positive behavior and healthy norms among Navy Sailors is something Hull Maintenance Technician 2nd Class Olga Perozocarreo has been doing for a while now.

“I have written over 20 video scripts and acted them out,” said Perozocarrero. “I filmed them at my current and last two commands to train Sailors on domestic violence, DUI, drug abuse, suicide prevention and sexual assault.”

A culture of excellence is not something Perozocarrero leaves at work, but is something she maintains awareness of at all times and takes very seriously.

“A culture of excellence means to be brave and have the courage to speak up when you see something wrong; to maintain hope and act to make a change for the better; to be different from others; to cancel the toxic culture and normalize doing the right thing; to get to know your Sailors and be approachable,” said Perozocarrera. “Protect each other how we would protect our brothers and sisters.”

Perozocarrero currently works as a transition assistant at the career transition office in Millington, Tenn. She not only enjoys her job, but also says it contributes to a culture of excellence because it gives her the opportunity to help others.

“I enjoy speaking with Sailors,” said Perozocarrero. “Making extra efforts to help Sailors start their new journeys when transitioning from Active Duty to the [Navy] Reserve makes my job feel more meaningful.”

Another way Perozocarrero contributes to the culture of excellence is through her collateral duties. She is on her unit’s honor guard team and is a SAPR victim advocate, duties that she is happy to fulfill and takes very seriously.

“It’s satisfying to render honors to Veteran, Retired and Active Duty members who have served this country,” said Perozocarrero. “As a SAPR victim advocate, I enjoy encouraging, supporting and helping victims find their strength to take their power back and continue to live the best life they can possibly live.”

Perozocarrero strives every day to represent the values that CNO wants all Sailors to exemplify.

COMMANDER JORGE ANAYA

Growing up in Los Angeles, Cmdr. Jorge Anaya knew many people from his neighborhood who headed off into military service.

As the son of immigrants, he saw the military as a way to thank the United States for the opportunity it gave his family.

“I am motivated to serve my country,” said Anaya. “My parents came here from Mexico, and I feel a debt of duty to the country that provided me with school and security.”

After graduating from the University of California Los Angeles, Anaya received a commission in 2000. He spent 10 years on active duty as an aviation maintenance duty officer, then transitioned to the Navy Reserve in 2011, but the sense of service continues to drive him.

As a civilian, that service is in support of his community. Since 2017 he’s worked for the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management. As a part of the public information section, Anaya alerts and warns the public about emergencies.

In his civilian job, Anaya has sent out wireless emergency alerts warning the public about growing wild fires and supported LA County’s local assistance center in the Woolsey fire aftermath, when more than 295,000 people were evacuated from their homes in 2018.

Anaya was surprised when he discovered a special emergency management community within the Navy.

The Navy Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer (NEPLO) program is a community that only exists in the Navy Reserve. NEPLOs respond to emergencies in the U.S. in order to connect Department of Defense resources in a whole-of-government response to relief efforts.

In March, Anaya became a NEPLO.

“When you join the Navy, you want to protect the nation,” said Anaya. “When I became a NEPLO, I wanted to help save lives, prevent suffering and mitigate major property damage on the home front. NEPLOs want to stop bad things from happening within our own communities. That is why we do what we do: we want to take care of our home and our neighbors.”

Being a NEPLO has been “eye-opening” in understanding how the Department of Defense can provide resources to communities in times of need.

“I didn’t come in thinking I know everything because I work in emergency management,” said Anaya. “If anything, it made me more curious and made me want to ask more questions.”

Anaya is attached to the Navy Reserve Defense Support of Civil Authorities Hawaii unit, where he works as a liaison to Commander, U.S. Third Fleet supporting FEMA Region 9, Hawaii and the American territories in the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command area of operations and stands ready to respond to disasters.

“Hopefully it doesn’t come to pass, but it’s what we’re here for,” he said. “We just wait for that call, if that should happen.”

“I wanted to help save lives, prevent suffering and mitigate major property damage on the home front.”





“The Reserve gives that connection ... this is all the stuff I missed doing while I was a Marine, and I'm really happy I get it to have it back in my life.”

MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS JEN S. MARTINEZ

Born on Nov. 10, the Marine Corps birthday, in Oceanside, California, home of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, the stars aligned for Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jen S. Martinez, formerly Marine Staff Sergeant Martinez, to join the U.S. Marine Corps. After almost a decade serving on active duty in the Corps, she transferred to the Navy Reserve.

In the military, Martinez started her career in strategic communications after her recruiter asked if she enjoyed telling stories and taking photographs.

“I really developed my passion for taking photos in middle school,” said Martinez. “I would have heaps of disposable cameras waiting to be developed. Photography was just something I’ve always been drawn to, and when I found out it was something I could do in the military, I jumped on it as soon as I could.”

Martinez joined the Marine Corps for the structure, admiring the way Marines tackle problems head-on — something she said she needed at the time.

Of Okinawan descent, one of her first duty stations was III Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, which afforded her the ability to visit family on the island for the first time in almost two decades.

Later, after years of working with Defense Media Activity and several other commands, she set her eyes on finishing her degree at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where she is currently completing her undergraduate degree in journalism with an emphasis on social media and podcasting.

Finishing her degree was a promise Martinez made to her parents that she wanted to fulfill. Focusing on school also gave her an opportunity to concentrate on her personal goals and growth.

“Mental health is very important to me,” she said. “The Navy Reserve gives me an opportunity to focus on the parts of the military that I really enjoy, while being able to take a step back and concentrate on myself and finishing my degree.”

While on her first annual training in the Navy Reserve, she served as a member of the Combined Joint Information Bureau for Exercise Talisman Sabre 21 in Australia. Throughout the exercise, she traveled across the country to tell the story of the partnership between the U.S., Australia, and other participating nations.

“It’s funny to be off active duty for a little bit, fall right back into what I’m used to and be with my military family,” said Martinez. “It’s like a light just switched on and I never left.”

Martinez recommends for those transferring from active duty to consider transferring to the Navy Reserve for the opportunities it provides.

“Even if it’s just a weekend a month or an annual training a year, being able to go back and see my military brothers and sisters is always worth it,” said Martinez. “The [Navy] Reserve gives that connection, and it’s strengthening. This is all the stuff I missed doing while I was a Marine and I’m really happy I get to have it back in my life.”

SENIOR CHIEF MASTER-AT-ARMS IVAN DELGADO

When Senior Chief Master-at-Arms Ivan Delgado joined the Navy Reserve in July, 2000, he was primarily looking for something supplementary to his full-time job, offering him a little extra income and a retirement plan. He had no idea the decision would bring him so much more. Looking back at his 21-year Navy Reserve career, the Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, native recalls spending eleven of those years on active duty supporting missions all over the world.

“I really like what I do,” said Delgado.

However, it wasn’t always that way. After spending three years in the Army during the late 1980s, Delgado spent 12 years working corporate customer service before joining the Navy Reserve as an undesignated Seaman. Deciding to strike for the same rate as his mentor, Storekeeper 1st Class Jerry Castro, Delgado spent roughly a year performing on-the-job training before passing the advancement exam to become a storekeeper third class.

Soon after Delgado’s rating and advancement, the 9/11 terror attacks rocked the soul of the nation. Because of his prior experience in the Army, the Navy mobilized Delgado to work security at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas. It was an environment of heightened vigilance, and during the assignment, Delgado immersed himself in a security-professional’s mindset.

“We had to take a two-week course before we started working,” Delgado said. “Even after I’d finished that course, I would go back on my days off and help out with the training. In the training scenarios, I would play the ‘bad guy’ or whatever they needed.”

During Delgado’s time at the security school, the course’s instructors encouraged him to put in a package to cross rate from storekeeper to master-at-arms. He did. After submitting a package and meeting with the community manager, he went on to earn his master-at-arms qualification badge in December, 2002.

Since becoming a master-at-arms, Delgado has mobilized, performed Active Duty Special Work (ADSW) orders, or otherwise been recalled to active duty 10 separate times. Along the way, he graduated from Navy Law Enforcement Special School, earned three Navy Enlisted Classifications (NECs) and now holds many security qualifications including customs border-clearance agent and basic Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT).

Delgado said the support he receives from his wife, two children and grandson allowed him to take an active role in stepping up to the plate for many different mission sets.

“That strong family support starts with my wife, Yvette,” said Delgado. “It’s only because I have such a supportive family that I’m able to raise my hand and volunteer.”

Delgado said his Navy Reserve experience imbued him with a deep and lasting sense of pride, capability, vigilance and readiness — qualities he displays in both his military and civilian lives.

“The most rewarding thing is being able to wear this uniform,” said Delgado. “As a Navy Reservist, I don’t physically wear the uniform every day, but I always carry myself in that manner. That’s one of the things I’ve learned over the last 21 years.”



“That strong family support starts with my wife, Yvette. It's only because I have such a supportive family that I'm able to raise my hand and volunteer.”

RESERVE DOCTOR PROVIDES EMERGENCY RESPONSE FOR TOWERS COLLAPSE

BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS SARAH HORNE, MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS ANDREW SNEERINGER NAVY REGION SOUTHEAST RCC JACKSONVILLE

It was 1:25 a.m. on Thursday, June 24. The Champlain Towers South condominium was just one among dozens of other buildings set on the scenic, sub-tropical coast of Surfside, Florida, overlooking calm waves shining beneath a full moon.

Within seconds that calm was split by the thundering collapse of most of the building, destroying 55 units and burying numerous sleeping tenants within.

Living just a few blocks away, Lt. Cmdr. Zev Neuwirth, a Navy Reserve officer attached to Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Miami, received a call from his volunteer emergency response group, the Hatzalah Emergency Medical Service. The group, comprised of neighborhood members, provides volunteer first-response care for the beach-front community. Many members, including Neuwirth, personally knew residents of the Champlain Towers South. He grabbed his go-bag and was out the door within minutes.

"I arrived to the scene, and there's smoke billowing out of the structure's collapse," said Neuwirth, who works in Internal Medicine as a Hospitalist and Primary Care Physician in his civilian career. "We had fire personnel scattered throughout. People are looking through rubble, trying to pull survivors from the building, but it's dark, it's smoky — it's a little bit chaotic."

Neuwirth said his first task was to get a sense of the scale



of the catastrophe and then direct resources to people in immediate need.

“My initial response was obviously to report and assess the situation to see if there was anything I could do with regards to victims and personnel,” Neuwirth said. “The next thing to do was basically create an immediate, forward-operating base for personnel, which is what I did.”

A reunification center was set up to help the people of Champlain Towers South and residents of the surrounding buildings who were also evacuated. In collaboration with a local pharmacy, Neuwirth worked to provide over 150 prescription medications to those affected, helping them to avoid resulting health problems.

“These people were literally getting pulled from their beds, coming in with only the shirts on their backs,” said Neuwirth. “Many were already being treated for various, chronic medical conditions — diabetes, high blood pressure, thyroid and cardiac issues — and they had no IDs, no money, and no medication with them. I carry an extreme amount of medicines to cover a variety of medical emergencies and chronic issues, so we set up a separate clinic to help these patients.”

“I arrived to the scene, and there’s smoke billowing out of the structure’s collapse. People are looking through rubble, trying to pull survivors from the building, but it’s dark, it’s smoky ...”

Lt. Cmdr. Neuwirth also personally treated over 30 first responders suffering from injuries and dehydration. He remained on scene for almost three weeks, continuously providing medical treatment for patients and displaced survivors at the reunification center.

“I was on site pretty much 24/7 except for the brief time I’d go home and grab a bite to eat or take a shower,” said Neuwirth. “Then I’d reestablish myself on site and support the first responders who would come off the mounds, exhausted with dehydration. I’d get them hooked up to IVs for fluids and deal with minor injuries.”

Neuwirth leveraged his experience as officer in charge of Fourth Civil Affairs Group, Force Headquarters Group, which provides medical support to the U.S. Marine Corps, to provide a fast and efficient response to assist hundreds of his neighbors and fellow first responders.

“The clinic was set up as a rehab, military style, with cots and everything we needed to keep them going,” he said. One week into the rescue effort, President Joe Biden visited the disaster site and witnessed ongoing recovery operations

firsthand. During his visit, the President personally thanked Neuwirth for his efforts, a gesture Neuwirth said filled him with a renewed sense of purpose.

“It was an honor, and it was very humbling,” Neuwirth described, “He is my commander-in-chief. He was compassionate, caring, and understanding. When I spoke to him, there was a heart. It was comforting. I was able to bring that comfort to other rescuers that I shared this with, as well as the families.”

Ultimately, 98 people have been confirmed dead in the Champlain Towers South collapse, a number which includes friends and family of the rescue teams that cried, sweat, and bled while sorting through thousands of pounds of concrete and corrugated steel. Neuwirth said he is no exception to the pain that struck the tight-knit community of Surfside.

“I personally had numerous patients of mine there, as well as associates and friends,” he said. “Dr. Brad Cohen, who was a friend of mine as well, unfortunately perished during the collapse. It was more than just responding to a collapse, but responding to my neighbors, my friends and relatives.”

“Having experienced the loss of a loved one kind of triggered all those emotions ... One of my dreams was to always give back, which is why I got into medicine in the first place.”

Neuwirth said both the loss of so many from his community, and his ability to help the survivors, reminded him of his inspiration to join the medical field. Once the CEO and president of a jewelry manufacturing company, Neuwirth lost his wife of twelve and a half years to her battle against a malignant osteoblastoma — an event which Neuwirth said spurred a profound professional change.

“Having experienced the loss of a loved one kind of triggered all those emotions,” said Neuwirth. “One of my dreams was to always give back, which is why I got into medicine in the first place.”

Neuwirth described his actions in the aftermath of the Champlain Towers South collapse as reflective of his desire to be of service to his tight-knit community and the nation he calls home.

“One of the things that I wanted to give back to was my country,” he said. “My country has always been there for me. Becoming a doctor and being able to serve and give back to my country — there is no greater reward.” [#ReadyOnDayOne](#)





NASHVILLE RESERVE SAILOR RESCUES SIX FROM CAR CRASH

BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS SARAH HORNE, NAVY REGION SOUTHEAST RCC JACKSONVILLE

Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Lovitt, assigned to Naval Operational Support Center Nashville, and his family were driving southbound on Interstate 59 toward one of their favorite vacation spots at Blue Mountain Beach, Florida. They had left their home ten minutes later than intended and felt rushed for time, so they didn't mind the quiet road that morning.

It was nearly 10 a.m. as they crossed the state line from Georgia into Alabama, about 30 miles southwest of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Suddenly, a minivan swerved into the left lane, nearly barreling off the road on the left before overcompensating back toward the center of the highway. It flipped and rolled across both lanes and down into the ditch along the right-hand side.

Lovitt carefully pulled to the side of the highway in front of the now upside-down vehicle and slammed his gearshift into park.

"In this case there wasn't any thinking," Lovitt said as he recalled the event. "I never sat for a minute to decide if I needed to get out or not. It was gonna happen."

Lovett's wife of twenty years reached back toward their three children and said, "We all need to pray; let's pray."

Lovitt recounted saying, "Y'all pray. I'm going to help."

But the whole family piled out of the car to support Lovitt's efforts to get the crash victims safely out of the smoking van.

Lovitt quickly scaled down the embankment to the second-row passenger-side door, which he was able to open

despite some resistance from the damaged frame.

"The car was upside down, and three of the passengers were hanging from their seatbelts," he said, describing what he saw when he first opened the door. "I had to lift two of them and unbuckle their seatbelts, but the two others were no problem. The driver was no problem. I was able to just pull her right through the opening, and the same for the others. There were really just two difficult ones."

A man in his seventies was in the front passenger seat, struggling but unable to unbuckle his seatbelt. As Lovitt helped to free the elderly man, an off-duty firefighter pulled over as well. The firefighter quickly began spraying the smoking vehicle with a fire extinguisher and gave Lovitt a knife to cut the elderly man's seatbelt away. The firefighter then broke the driver's side window to provide a better escape route. Lovitt held up the driver's side airbag to protect himself and the passenger from shards of glass raining down. Then, with the help of the firefighter, Lovitt used the same airbag as a mat, providing a protective surface for the man to crawl up and out of the vehicle.

Then came the most challenging part: freeing the fifth passenger, a sixteen-year-old girl who was screaming in horrible pain. Her foot had become trapped between the smashed frame of the van and the seat in front of her. Lovitt said it took approximately ten agonizing minutes to free her foot from its awful position.

"Every time I would move it a little bit, she would scream in my ear," said Lovitt. "Then I would move it a little bit more and she'd scream again."

Lovitt, who has a fifteen-year-old son, said he felt

horribly that the girl was in pain, but he had to free her as fast as possible in case the vehicle ignited. Once the girl's foot was free, she was unable to use her leg. Lovitt had her hold onto his neck as he crawled backwards out of the vehicle dragging her along with him. He and the firefighter carried her up the hill to the rest of her family.

Lovitt described that the accident occurred in a remote location away from populated communities.

"It took almost 45 minutes for the ambulance service to get there," Lovitt said. "When you just pass into Alabama right there, you're in a pretty rural area. You're ten to fifteen miles away from the two next towns in either direction."

While waiting for the ambulance, Lovitt went back down to the crashed vehicle to search for supplies and gather the family's belongings.

"They had a twelve-pack of water in the car, so I brought that up there and handed them all water," he said. "Some of them didn't have their shoes on. They were wearing flip-flops before the crash and didn't know where they had gone. When they walked up to the road, they had glass and dirt and road rash on their feet. I used my hands, and I cleaned this lady's feet, found her flip-flops [and gave them to her]."

The only passenger who was uninjured, Lovitt said, was the driver, a woman in her seventies. She was frantically walking between her family members, checking on them.

"She felt horrible so I talked to her for a little bit," Lovitt said. "She didn't have a whole lot to say until I said, 'We're all thankful that nobody is seriously hurt.' To that

she said, 'Thank you Jesus. Praise Jesus,' so I thought, 'Okay, so she's a prayerful person.' She and I said a quick prayer together, just thanking Jesus that he was able to keep that car frame intact and that those airbags worked, that they were wearing their seatbelts, and all six of them were going to survive."

After seeing the family into the safe hands of first responders, Lovitt said his good-byes to the woman and her family.

"I hugged her —I think I hugged everybody," he said with a laugh. "I even hugged some of the other people that stopped. It just felt so good to be able to make somebody's day better like that. It made us an hour late to our vacation, but it's so much more than that. I just felt so good that I was able to be there and that we hadn't left on time."

Lovitt and his family continued their trip down the road half an hour later. The adrenaline left him shaken, so he pulled over briefly in the Alabama Welcome Center to clean up a bit before resuming the journey south. When he evaluated himself, he had glass in his forearms, his knees, his shins, in his hair, and all over his shirt. He described that his wife pointed out when he got back to the car that he had actually been wearing his shirt inside out the whole time.

"I'm trying to imagine what I would think if I saw someone in there that looked like me doing what I was doing," Lovitt said, laughing. "I looked like garbage standing there at that sink trying to get cleaned up."

Ultimately, Lovitt said he was simply grateful to have been of assistance to a family in a difficult circumstance. &



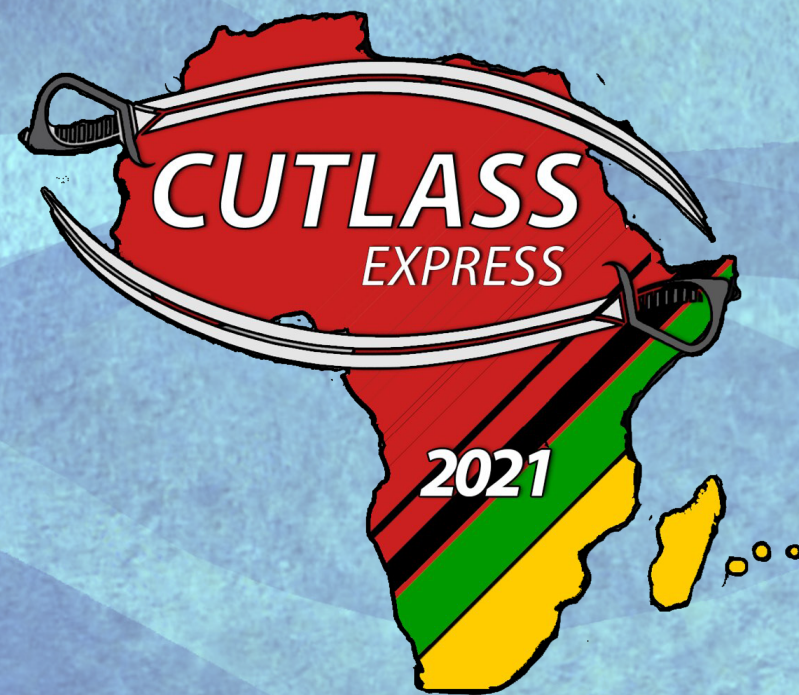


PHOTO BY JAMES COMMUNICATIONS CENTER FOR CUTLASS BY AN KLEDZIK

SHARPENING THE CUTLASS

BY LT J. SCHMITZ, NAVY RESERVE,
NAVY PUBLIC AFFAIRS ELEMENT (NPASE) EAST

If you’ve been a Navy Reserve Sailor for a while, you may recognize the name Cutlass Express. Conducted in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean, it’s one of the Navy’s largest, joint-multinational exercises. What you probably don’t know is that more than 90% of Sailors planning and executing Cutlass Express 2021 (CE21) were Navy Reservists.

From the exercise director, lead planner, country officers-in-charge, and Maritime Operations

Center (MOC) mentors—to the linguists, medics, and assessors—almost every component of CE21 was run by Reserve Sailors. The Navy Reserve took the lead for CE21 due to its flexible ability to support shifting plans upon a moment’s notice and meet challenges brought about by uncertainty.

“The Navy Reserve brings a tremendous amount of expertise and training to the planning and execution of Cutlass Express,” said Capt. Cannon Neslen, commanding officer of Navy Reserve U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa, N5 Africa East Detachment and CE21 director. “This year we had three fluent French speakers,

seven members with Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa mobilizations under their belt, and eight members with significant MOC watch-standing experience.”

Yeoman First Class Marley Schafer, one of the exercise’s MOC watch-standers and a recent recipient of a National Security Masters of Arts degree from the University of Denver, was specially selected to facilitate the classroom-based portion of the exercise. As a fluent French-speaker, she also organized a panel discussion for the 45 international attendees participating in the Joint Operations Center in Mombasa, Kenya.

“There are not many, such as YN1 Schafer, who might be asked to perform their standard Reserve duties and responsibilities while also leading an international panel discussion,” said Cmdr. Bryan Walworth, CE21 lead exercise planner and Kenya Officer-in-Charge (OIC).

Senior Chief Construction Mechanic Darwin King was also an integral component of CE21. An

automotive product development engineer from Oxford, Michigan, King has supported four previous “Express” series exercises. His engineering experience helped him identify the root causes of specific technical problems, develop solutions with cross functional teams, and share lessons learned across the joint team.

Cmdr. Kirk Scheringer, from Denver, Colo., has supported a total of seven CE exercises during his career. Although he wasn’t able to travel to the event’s location this year, he participated virtually.

“I’ve seen this exercise grow and change in importance and scope over the past 11 years,” said Scheringer. “Very good things have come from the entire team’s participation in the exercise. For example, a couple of former Cutlass Express partner planners are now heads of their maritime defense forces, and many enduring friendships have been established.”

Cmdr. Rich Martucci, a Middletown, New Jersey





PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS RYAN KLEZIK



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN DWAYNE YOUNG



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN DWAYNE YOUNG



native, served as the exercise’s lead planner, bringing more than three years of combatant command and component level exercise experience and insight to the table, as well as lessons learned from his civilian career.

“The U.S. military measures success on effectiveness, while in the private sector you must focus on both effectiveness and efficiency,” Martucci said.

Martucci noted planning and executing CE21 was a challenge that required special creativity. For example, due to enhanced security protocols at the airport, a Reserve Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) training team wasn’t able to bring weapons training aids with them to Mombasa, Kenya. Without the training aids, the team’s planned VBSS drills would have lacked realism. Participants wouldn’t have been able to practice muzzle discipline or gain confidence carrying a

weapon — an important part of training.

Utilizing creative problem solving, the team contracted the production of twenty, wooden, dummy rifles from local wood carvers. The dummy rifles were delivered the next day, and the exercise continued as planned. At the end of the exercise, each member of the training team signed the wooden replicas and gave one to each participating country’s team, which were very well received.

CE21’s tactical events were a resounding success, and its cross-cultural events were as well. One of the most meaningful events was a cultural exchange with an orphanage. About a dozen participants engaged almost one-hundred local children at the event. Navy Reserve Sailors offered encouragement and future career advice to the children. This event was extended by nearly two

hours due to popular demand, and the kids requested the Sailors return whenever possible.

Cutlass Express 2021 offered the Navy many opportunities to build partnerships, both cultural and strategic. Its success demonstrated the Navy Reserve’s ability to support international missions on a global scale. However, the Reserve Sailors who made it a success did so because they were trained and ready to mobilize. [#ReadyOnDayOne](#)

Exercise Cutlass Express 2021, sponsored by U.S. Africa Command and conducted by U.S. Naval Forces Africa, took place June 26 to August 6, 2021, in the vicinity of Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, and Seychelles. CE21 is designed to improve regional cooperation in support of the Djibouti Code of Conduct, maritime domain awareness,

information sharing between maritime operation centers, maritime interdiction, adherence to the rule of law, and counter-proliferation interdiction capabilities in order to disrupt illicit maritime activity and strengthen safety and security in East Africa.

The exercise began with an in-port training period followed by at-sea scenarios and concluded with a senior leadership symposium. The underway portion of the exercise tested the ship’s abilities to conduct maritime interdiction operations by boarding teams against simulated suspect vessels, detecting illicit activity, and follow-on evidence collection procedures.

The 13 participating nations include Comoros, Djibouti, Georgia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, United Kingdom, and the United States.

USNR SUPPORTS FIRST LARGE SCALE EXERCISE

BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS EUGENE KRETSCHMER AND SEAMAN MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST JACK BARNELL, U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

There was a feeling of anticipation in the air at Naval Station Norfolk as Sailors, both Active Duty and Reserve, worked to prepare for the largest U.S. Navy exercise to date.

Large Scale Exercise (LSE) 2021 involved more than 25,000 participants across 17 time zones, including more than 35 ships at sea. LSE 2021 also utilized numerous virtual units, which are computer-generated tracks fed into sensor systems, rehearsing the Navy's ability to employ precise, lethal, and overwhelming force globally.

For Navy Reserve Sailors, LSE 2021 represented an opportunity to sharpen their skills on a global stage by participating in one of the largest naval exercises ever undertaken.

"LSE 2021 puts the [Navy] Reserve Sailor into an environment where they get to do the things they learn about and train to do them well," said Rear Adm. Christopher Asselta, deputy for Navy Construction Force, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC). "Operating alongside their active-duty counterparts is one of the most valuable aspects that exercises like LSE 2021 provide to the Reserve Sailor."

Although certain elements of LSE 2021 were virtual, all the training was very real.

"Training for real-world events is vital to the sustainment and fighting power of the Navy," said Senior Chief Information Technician Specialist Anita Harmon, a Reserve Sailor assigned to Navy Reserve Military Sealift Command (MSC) Far East. "If we don't get opportunities like this, we won't know what to do when we are called up to fill these positions."

As a watch officer, Harmon worked with both real-world and exercise assets during the event, providing valuable support for supply ships such as underway replenishment oiler USNS Yukon (T-AO 202) and dry cargo ship USNS Washington Chambers (T-AKE 11). She said it was an experience unlike any other and a challenge she welcomed.

Other Sailors felt challenged as well.

"Many long days, but I think it's really good training, especially for me," said Gunner's Mate 2nd Class James Marshall, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC). "This is really where I get my rate training. I get to familiarize myself with our boat crew and equipment—that helps create the kind of crew bonding that will help during mobilization."

"Exercises like LSE help to get Reservists like me up to speed with training, repetition, and various sets of situations that will better prepare me for mobilization," said Cmdr. Brendan Maguire, Joint Deployment and Maritime Operations Centers.

LSE 2021 was the first iteration of what is slated to become a triennial exercise, to include U.S. partners and allies from around the world.

"If someone joined the [Navy] Reserve thinking there's no chance of ever being recalled, then they didn't have the right frame of mind when they signed up," Harmon said. "Warfighting readiness is what we're called on to sharpen, and that's what we do."

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PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 3RD CLASS NICK BORIS



PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 3RD CLASS JESSE SCHWAB



USMC PHOTO BY MAJOR NICK MANNING



PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS ARNOLD WAINWRIGHT



PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 3RD CLASS NICK BORIS

A SPLIT-SECOND CHANCE



BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS JACOB SIPPEL

Master-at-Arms 1st Class Caitlin Sullivan gripped her M9 service pistol at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. The scorching hot sun beamed down as sweat rolled down her face. She pushed off the safety, touched the trigger, aimed and readied to shoot a real person who had come over the fence. This wasn't training anymore. The situation required a split second decision.

Fifteen years in the Navy is a long time for the average Sailor. MA1 Sullivan is closer to the end of her career than the beginning. She's looking ahead to retirement – and back at a successful career.

Originally from Louisville, Kentucky, she's had a few great jobs. Always choosing to re-enlist, she has pushed hard through each step of her military journey, one which began in 2005, when she first enlisted in the Navy.

"As odd as it sounds to say this now: when I joined, I was a bit of a rebel and one that didn't like authority," said Sullivan, recalling her days as a junior Sailor. "I originally wanted to become a hospital corpsman, but the wait was too long. So the next choice was master-at-arms. The recruiter told me it was an active job, promised I'd stay busy, and told me I'd carry a gun all the time. I said 'sign me up.' And that's what started my personal growth from rebel to the person I am now."

Sullivan remembers the times when she really needed a second chance herself.

"My second chance came in 2014 when I wasn't the

best Sailor. My performance was suffering — I was failing at physical readiness standards," said Sullivan. "The Navy kind of dragged their feet a little and allowed me enough time to get myself together and pass the next physical readiness test."

Making a difference came naturally to Sullivan. Her mother is an advance registered nurse practitioner, and her grandfather served in World War II as a Navy radioman. Shortly after enlisting in the Navy, Sullivan started making a big difference in other people's lives.

"My first real big assignment was providing aid in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina," explained Sullivan.

Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast of the United States in August, 2005, causing over 1,800 deaths and \$125 billion in damages, requiring years of cleanup. Sullivan and her unit, based in New Orleans, stepped in to help immediately.

"Those citizens of 7th and 9th Ward of New Orleans lost everything," she said. "We were able to provide medical supplies, food, water, and help with the cleanup and FEMA trailer placements. We helped bring a sense of 'home' to them."

Not long after her Hurricane Katrina relief assignment, Sullivan started making a difference on the other side of the world, in a very different environment. She served at Camp Bucca, Iraq, from late 2008 through early 2010, working with Naval Provisional Detainee Battalion Six.

"We housed detainees accused of war crimes against

the United States and Coalition Forces," said Sullivan. "It was an eye-opening experience for me as a third class petty officer. Working with detainees can be very difficult. Some of these detainees were accused of very serious crimes, but I didn't want to know. I wanted treat everyone equally. My time there also taught me to have thick skin and remain calm under pressure."

In 2010, Sullivan transitioned to the Navy Reserve and began her professional career as a civilian. Now a sergeant with the Florida Department of Corrections, she works at Polk Correctional Institution. It's a re-entry camp where all the inmates have less than five years of their sentences left.

"We try to reintegrate them back into society," she said. "We offer construction classes, college, outpatient treatment for addictions, and GED classes."

Sullivan remembered her days as a tough junior Sailor, using her own personal growth to highlight the patience, faith and attentiveness required to both lead Sailors and manage inmates.

"I haven't always been the greatest Sailor, and this job has taught me sometimes second chances make all the difference in the world," she said. "Maybe if one person would have cared for these inmates, things may have turned out differently for them. This is kind of the attitude I take with me when leading my Sailors now."

On April 21, 2021, at approximately 1442, Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Arturo Figueroa reported an unknown person holding a plastic bag on the flight line at Camp Lemonnier. Figueroa made contact with the male suspect and immediately requested backup. The suspect became aggressive and started to flee on foot.

"When I heard Figueroa call for back up, I immediately responded. I got nervous when we didn't hear back from him," explained Sullivan. "When I arrived, I drew my weapon. According to our pre-planned responses, we treat a perimeter breach like a high-risk traffic stop."

Sullivan's calmness under pressure — a quality cultivated in the chaos of the Hurricane Katrina aftermath, sharpened by two years in the heat of the Iraqi desert and tested daily at Polk Correctional — allowed her the mental space and clarity necessary to make a life or death judgement call.

Sullivan, eyes wide-open, assessed there are times when deadly force is absolutely necessary. This wasn't one of them.

With her pistol still aimed directly at the man, Sullivan took a deep breath, and — in the heat of the day and wearing a 40-pound armored vest —holstered her

weapon. Although she had every right to use deadly force, in a split second, Sullivan quickly decided to give the man a second chance.

After she holstered her pistol, the suspect took off running.

"Me and Figueroa got in our vehicle and pursued. I said 'Fig, I'm gonna bail out and try to grab him. Button hook in and cut him off with the vehicle,'" explained Sullivan, using her hands to demonstrate. "We were joined by Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Tyrone Mills and we boxed him in."

Sullivan got out and pursued on foot. She quickly closed the gap with fast feet.

"I went to OC spray him, and then we started wrestling. I threw the OC on the ground and tackled him," said Sullivan. "We quickly put him in cuffs and contained the suspect. It felt almost like a training evolution. It was just executed flawlessly from beginning to end. Nobody was seriously hurt. Everything was okay."

After the man was detained, the rest of the security team stepped up, following protocol to ensure that the man Sullivan stopped was the only one.

Sailors train for years for a scenario like this. It went off without a hitch. But those who work with Sullivan know that there's a human element in this success. A person can have the knowledge but not have the gut instincts to execute the mission flawlessly — all while making good decisions and saving lives. Sullivan had those instincts. She chose not to shoot — and was able to control the situation quickly and safely.

"Sullivan has discernment on how to use the least amount of force necessary to stop the threat. Using her training and experience as a law enforcement officer, she made the decision to detain the individual instead of using deadly force," said MA1 Sheana McAnerny, who works closely with Sullivan. "Her courage and leadership prevented an international incident and ensured the safety and security of Camp Lemonnier."

After the fact, Sullivan humbly took it all in stride.

"At the end of the day, I was just doing my job, and protecting the Sailors I serve with," she said. "I got their six, and they've got mine. You have to make a split second decision out there. The crew that I'm on, Bravo Section, we work really well together; we communicate really well together. We talk about situations just like this. So when it happened, everyone knew their role."

In a life full of second chances, Sullivan made a split second-chance decision. ✚

#ReadyOnDayOne



SAVING LIVES ANYWHERE, ANYTIME: ERSS TEAM 26

BY CMDR. SAMUEL SAYSON AND LT. CMDR. CESAR AVILA, OHSU, CL DET A

A stretcher laying atop twin metal sawhorses serves as an operating table. Its strategic position under a small tree is not to protect from the sun, but rather to provide defensive cover, as well as a structure to hang IVs, blood and suture. A team of nine Navy medical personnel assembled to support a Marine Corps patrol, which is anticipating contact with nearby adversaries.

Gunfire erupts, and the medical team, trained in combat by U.S. Army cadre and armed with M4 carbines and 9mm pistols, quickly forms its own defensive perimeter. Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Ashley Rodriguez-Sosa, the team's surgical technician, is instrumental to this effort.

The Marines quickly contain the threat, but not without casualties. Members of the medical team, led by flight nurse Lt. Cmdr. Sarah DeKay, stretcher-carry a Marine with gunshot wounds to his leg, abdomen and chest. Emergency medicine physician Lt. Cmdr. Cesar Avila and physician assistant Lt. David Bergamo quickly administer triage, advanced trauma life support, and medical care.

Since the Marine is in respiratory distress from gunshot wounds to the chest, the team quickly intubates his trachea, and respiratory therapist Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Shawnee Marino and anesthesiologist Cmdr. Sam Sayson place him on a ventilator. Avila and Bergamo pack his wounds and place a chest tube in order to re-expand a collapsed lung. Meanwhile, trauma surgeon Capt. Bruce Bennett, along with surgical tech Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Francisco Vazquez, work swiftly to

open the abdomen and chest to control bleeding.

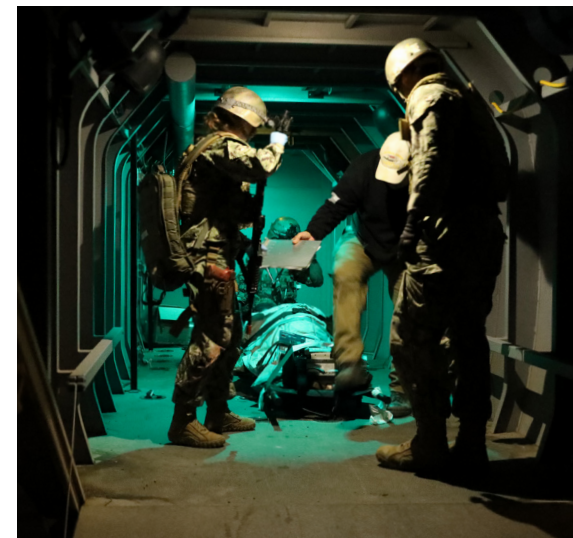
During the resuscitation and surgery, a woman in native dress screams for help for a downed Marine. Bergamo and DeKay, along with OR/ED nurse Lt. Cmdr. Rachael Sehnert, disengage, leaving the first patient in the capable hands of the rest of the team, and rush to locate the injured Marine on the side of the road.

Shouldering her M4 rifle, Sehnert provides defensive cover while Bergamo and DeKay apply a tourniquet to the Marine's bleeding leg. The three of them carry the Marine 75 yards on a litter to the resuscitation area. Avila and Sosa create a trauma table using pelican storage boxes, and the transport team mount the litter on this makeshift stand so that the team can administer combat casualty care.

Sayson slides over to assist, trusting a capable Marine, who is assisting the team, to provide airway and anesthetic care to Bennett's other surgical patient. Fortunately, Avila ascertains the second injured Marine will not require immediate surgery. Doubling as the communications officer, Sehnert secures the services of a military ambulance for the evacuation of both patients.

The previously described sequence of events did not occur on foreign soil but it could have. However, it was actually realistic-training exercise designed to train Expeditionary Resuscitative Surgical System (ERSS) Team 26 to operationally deploy. It was orchestrated by the staff of Naval Expeditionary Medicine Training Institute (NEMTI) in the backcountry of Camp Pendleton, Calif., in May, 2021 for ERSS Team 26's benefit.

ERSS Team 26 is a small, Role 2 Light Maneuver (R2LM) team designed to provide damage control resuscitation and surgery in remote and contested



areas, including aeromedical operations in rotary wing platforms. Before ERSS is deployed, the team undergoes months of extensive training at multiple locations.

With the perspective of two previous deployments to the Central Command Area of Responsibility, Bennett expressed he thinks the training described above is excellent preparation.

“The pre-deployment training was physically and mentally demanding,” Bennett said. “It closely approximated what I did while I was with the Special Forces at Bastion (Afghanistan) in 2010.”

The primary mission of ERSS Team 26 is to medically-support Marines, Soldiers and Sailors anywhere on land or sea within a specific region, with a response time of 6-12 hours. In many regions of the world, it can be very challenging for U.S. forces to transport combat casualties to a trauma center within the 30-60 minutes, known as the “golden-hour,” which is the timeline needed in order to greatly increase these patients’ chances of survival.

Traditional military surgical support, such as Combat Support Hospitals, are too large to station close to areas of potential enemy contact, so teams such as ERSS have been developed to bring trauma care close to potential combat injuries.

“From a trauma surgery standpoint, the sooner we can achieve hemorrhage control, the better the chances for survival,” said Bennett.

In the past, ERSS teams have performed surgery aboard ships that don’t have built-in surgical capabilities,

participated in remote humanitarian missions, provided educational seminars to foreign militaries, and supported live-fire exercises with partner nations.

ERSS teams are small units. In the world of Navy Medicine, they are exceptionally independent, which imposes extraordinary demands on their leadership to cultivate the team and improve their operating models. For example, under Bennett’s leadership, ERSS Team 26 decreased its carry-weight requirements by 75%, providing much greater mobility if the team is required to travel by foot to a remote site. Master Chief Susan Brandenburg, ERSS’s logistics specialist, ensures necessary equipment and consumables are in adequate supply and ready for use as required.

Logistics management is just one of many leadership challenges that ERSS demands.

“Every member on our team is a subject matter expert, and applying one leadership style will not work with these high caliber Sailors,” said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Shawnee Marino, leading petty officer for ERSS Team 26. “You need to know your Sailors to determine what motivates them.”

ERSS embodies the Navy Reserve motto, “Ready now, anytime, anywhere.” Its collection of skilled Reserve Sailors, combined with active-duty Sailors, provides a synergy that is greater than the sum of its parts. The result is a mobile, life-saving force that is. [#ReadyOnDayOne](#)



GOOD YEAR or SATISFACTORY YEAR: What’s the difference?

Do you know the difference between a QUALIFYING YEAR toward a Reserve retirement and a SATISFACTORY PARTICIPATION year? Follow this concise chart to make sure your Reserve support time counts.

A “**GOOD YEAR**” refers to a **QUALIFYING YEAR** toward paid retirement

“**SATISFACTORY PARTICIPATION**” is the mandatory Reserve service requirement

After 20 **QUALIFYING YEARS** of service you are eligible for a paid retirement from the Navy Reserve

It is the minimum service required to maintain **GOOD STANDING** in the Reserve.

A Qualifying Year is based on your personal **ANNIVERSARY DATE*** of affiliation with the Navy Reserve

Satisfactory Participation is based on the **FISCAL YEAR** — October 1 to September 30 and is the same for every Reserve Sailor

A minimum of **50 POINTS** in the 12 months following an Anniversary Date equals a Qualifying Year

A **MINIMUM** of **40 DRILL PERIODS** and at least **12 DAYS** of active duty service** must be completed each fiscal year

Obtaining **LESS** than 50 points **DOES NOT** count for a qualifying year toward retirement

Satisfactory Participation is **MANDATORY** — Any unauthorized drill weekend absences or missed Annual Training (AT) without an AT waiver could result in administrative action

See **MILPERSMAN 1820-050** for additional information

See **MILPERSMAN 1001-150** for additional information

*Anniversary Date is located on NSIPS statement of service and on BUPERS Online (BOL) under ASOSH ARPR. **Annual Training (AT), Active Duty for Training (ADT), Active Duty for Special Work (ADSW), Active Duty for Operational Support (ADOS), or Mobilization.





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RETIREMENT TRANSITION OUTREACH

RESERVE RETIREMENT WAYPOINT (RRW)

Highlights the processes to apply for retired pay and enroll in health care benefits, including required applications forms details, plan options, and costs. Designed especially for "Gray Area" retired Reservists.

Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2021, 1800 Central Time

Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021, 1800 Central Time

Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022, 1800 Central Time

Thursday, Mar. 3, 2022, 1800 Central Time

Tuesday, Jun. 21, 2021, 1800 Central Time

Tuesday, Sept. 20, 1800 Central Time

RESERVE RETIREMENT COUNSELING SESSION (RRCS)

Covers all major milestones toward Reserve retirement: managing retirement points, making Survivor Benefit Plan elections on receipt of the Notice of Eligibility, applying for retired pay and benefits, and enrolling in health benefits including TRICARE and FEDVIP.

Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 8-9, 2022, 0800 Central Time

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022, 1800 Central Time

Saturday-Sunday, Apr. 9-10, 2022, 0800 Eastern Time

Saturday-Sunday, May 14-15, 2022, 0800 Eastern Time

Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 10-11, 2022, 0800 Pacific Time

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2022, 0800 Central Time

RETIREMENT AWARENESS WORKSHOP (RAW)

Covers everything in the RRCS, plus basic retirement financial planning, veterans' disability claims and benefits, other retirement benefits, retirement ceremonies, and application forms.

Tuesday-Thursday, Nov. 2-4, 2021, 0800 Central Time

Tuesday-Thursday, May 3-5, 2021, 0800 Central Time

Retirement Transition Outreach Program Manager, Cmdr. Sarah McGann: sarah.c.mcgann@navy.mil; sarah.c.mcgann.mil@us.navy.mil. For specific inquiries about individual retirement requests, contact MyNavy Career Center: 833-330-MNCC (6622), askmncc@navy.mil



PHOTO BY NAVAL COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS KYLE STECKLER